Under the earlier scheme, 104 Aditya Solar Shops have been set up in 28 States/UTs.

(c) It is proposed to establish Akshay Urja Shops in all the districts of the country. Initially it is planned to support the setting up of 200 shops next year in those districts where Aditya Solar Shops have not been set up under the earlier scheme.

WRITTENS ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Atomic Energy Production

1781.PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to set up more Atomic Energy Plants with the latest safeguards available in the international market;

(b) the details of plans to increase atomic energy production in the next five years;

(c) the obstacles in increasing energy production from atomic energy sources; and

(d) the steps proposed to improve the sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presently construction work on 8 nuclear power reactors is in progress, which on completion will add 760 MWe in 2006-07, 1660 MWe in 2007-08, 1000 MWe in 2008-09 and 500 MWe in 2010-11. Thus the current nuclear power capacity of 3360 MWe will be increased to 7280 MWe in the next five years.

(c) Exploitation of indigenous nuclear resources for production of electricity is based on three-Stage nuclear power programme. The three stages have fuel cycle linkages and have to be gone through sequentially. This require time.

(d) In addition to the capacity of 7280 MWe in operation/under construction, more nuclear power projects are also planned to progressively increase the nuclear capacity base in the country.